Scheme for fellowships to SC/ST students

178. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Centre has approved a new central scheme for providing fellowships to SCs/STs to pursue higher studies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) which is the nodal agency for implementation of this scheme; and

(d) the action plan of Government to give due publicity of this scheme to help the SCs/STs of the tribal-dominated Orissa region to reap its benefits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Two New Central Sector Schemes namely 'Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship' (RGNF) for Scheduled Caste Students and 'Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship' for Scheduled Tribe students for pursuing higher studies leading to M.Phil. and Ph.D. have been introduced during the current financial year 2005-06.

(b) Any student belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes category admitted to M.Phil./Ph.D. degree in a University or academic institution will be eligible for the award of the Fellowship. The tenure of Fellowship will be for five years, two years for Junior Research Fellowship and three years as Senior Research Fellowship subject to satisfactory progress of Research work. A total of 2000 fellowships (1333 for SCs and 667 for STs) will be awarded per year during the Xth Plan Period.

(c) and (d) UGC is the nodal agency for implementing the scheme and will give wide publicity to the scheme to invite applications.

Schemes for women tribals in Andhra Pradesh

179. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of schemes existing for women tribals in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the allocation made for each scheme;

(c) the number of beneficiaries in each scheme, amount-wise;

(d) whether funds have been misused in any scheme;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) There are 12 major schemes for tribals supported by Government of India in Andhra Pradesh:

(i) Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Plan
(ii) Grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution
(iii) Hostels for ST students
(iv) Educational Complexes in Low Literacy Pockets for ST girls
(v) Ashram Schools
(vi) Post Matric Scholarship for ST students
(vii) Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for ST students
(viii) Grant-in-aid to Voluntary Organisations
(ix) Vocational Training Centres in Tribal Areas
(x) Development of Primitive Tribal Groups
(xi) Grant-in-aid to State TDCCs for MFPs
(xii) Support to National/State ST Finance and Development Corporations

All the schemes except one are meant equally for the benefit of tribal men and women. There is only one scheme exclusively for the benefit of tribal women/girls viz., "Educational Complexes in low literacy pockets for ST girls". The scheme is operational in low literacy pockets of various states including Andhra Pradesh.

(b) During the year 2005-06, the allocation under the scheme for Educational Complexes in low literacy pockets for ST girls in Andhra Pradesh is Rs. 91.00 lakhs.

(c) Under the scheme funds released to Andhra Pradesh and beneficiaries covered are as under:

2002-03		2003-04		2004-05	
Amount	Beneficiaries	Amount	Beneficiaries	Amount	Beneficiaries
216.27	4721	273.35	6386	324.50	6500

The number of beneficiaries for the current financial year can be calculated at the end of the financial year.

(d) No such instance has been come to the notice of this Ministry.

(e) and (f) Questions do not arise.

National policy for the welfare of tribals

†180. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any national policy for the welfare of tribals in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government for implementation of the said scheme?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) A National Policy for tribals is in the process of being finalized.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Proposals sent by NGOs

181. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal submitted by Non-Government Organisations has been approved under the Women and Child Development Scheme;

(b) if so, the number of proposals from Non-Government Organisations received during the last two years in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) the details of the Non-Government Organisations whose proposals have been accepted/rejected or still lying pending till date; and

(d) the funds allocated under sanctioned proposals during the said period in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) the number of proposals received from NGOs and approved and funds sanctioned/released during the last two years in Andhra Pradesh is given in Statement (*See* below).

The details of the NGOs to whom funds were released from the last two years are available in the respective Annual Reports of the Ministry and Ministry's Web site *http://www.wcd.nic.in*

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.